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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/008,810	11/13/2001	Debasis Majumdar	82857LMB	5670

7590

05/22/2006

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EXAMINER

YOON, TAE H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1714

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/008,810

Applicant(s)

MAJUMDAR ET AL.

Examiner

Tae H. Yoon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14,16,18-20,22-35,49 and 54-65 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 14,16,18-20,29-35 and 49 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-28 and 54-65 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

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The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 22-28 and 54-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The recited "said article" in claims 22-24, 54 and 55 lacks an antecedent basis since an extruded base is claimed, and thus claims are indefinite.]

The recited "the Young's modulus" in claims 26, 27, 56 and 57 lacks an antecedent basis.

Claim 23 is confusing and indefinite since polyolefins are taught as compatibilizers as well as a matrix resin when combined with claims 14 and 22.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 54-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Acquarulo et al (US 6,833,392).

Acquarulo et al were discussed in previous office actions.

Acquarulo et al teach melt mixed PEBAX and clay by twin-screw extrusion or two-roll mill in examples, table 2 and at col. 3, lines 3-14. Such processes inherently yield PEBAX and intercalated clay. Tubular shaft is taught at col. 3, lines 51-67 which meets the extruded base. The recited properties are inherent in extruded product of Acquarulo et al since the same components are used. The instantly recited "comprising" permits the presence of a crosslinking promoter. The recited "imaging member" is an intended use and thus has no probative value.

Thus, the instant invention lacks novelty.

Claims 54-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fisher (US 6,579,927) in view of Acquarulo et al (US 6,833,392).

Fisher and Acquarulo, Jr. et al are discussed in previous office actions.

Note that the matrix polymer, polyester and polyolefin, is not needed.

Fisher teaches a block copolymer intercalated clay. One of block copolymer could be polyethylene oxide (polyether)-b-polyamide (col. 3, line 44 and col. 4, line 13). Acquarulo, Jr. et al teach the use of such block copolymer (PEBAX) with clay in examples. Fisher teaches various matrix polymer including polyolefins and polyesters

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at col. 3, line 22. Fisher also teaches articles obtained by an extrusion meeting the instant extruded base.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to utilize polyethylene oxide (polyether)-b-polyamide taught by Acquarulo, Jr. et al in intercalating clay and further to make an extruded product since Fisher teaches such modification and choosing species such as block copolymer and matrix resins from disclosed species is considered a routine practice in the art and since Fisher also teaches articles obtained by an extrusion meeting the instant extruded base.

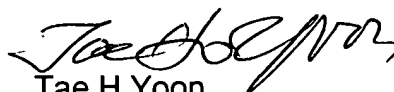
Claims 14, 16, 18-20, 29-35 and 49 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tae H. Yoon whose telephone number is (571) 272-1128. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on (571) 272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tae H Yoon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1714

THY/May 17, 2006